

Eastbay woman wins \$1.69 million Lotto share

By Benny Evangelista

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HAYWARD — A Hayward woman yesterday claimed a \$1.69 million slice of the state lottery's \$5.08 million grand prize Lotto jackpot.

Shirley Keppert was one of three persons statewide to correctly pick all six Lotto numbers drawn Wednesday night.

The other winners, from San Diego and El Dorado County, had not come forward by yesterday afternoon, Lotto officials

said.

Keppert, who would not authorize Lotto officials to release information about her, could not be reached for comment. Her husband left a message at his business that she did not want to be interviewed.

After taxes, Keppert will receive \$69,600 a year for 20 years.

Keppert bought her ticket at Fairway Liquors, 31161 Mission Blvd., where she is a regular customer, said store owner Kenneth

Stone.

Stone said Keppert also had winning tickets for three-, four- and five-of-six numbers, adding another \$2,721 in prizes.

For at least the two years Stone has owned the store, Keppert has come in about twice a week to play Lotto.

"She's one heck of a nice person," Stone said. "She's someone all of us kept saying that if somebody does (win the jackpot) she deserves it."

Stone said Keppert called the

store Wednesday night immediately after the Lotto drawing and calmly said "I won."

"I don't know if she was in a state of shock or if she is that calm of a person," Stone said.

Keppert said she was "very happy with splitting it with the other people," Stone said.

But she wants to avoid publicity, he said.

The store will receive about \$8,500 for selling the winning ticket, Stone said.